

DECISION MEMO
Forest Plan Amendment Number 5
Custer National Forest

The purpose of Amendment Number 5 is to eliminate a monitoring item that the Forest discovered is not a meaningful measure of activity nor is the data for this item readily available. The item to be monitored is oil and gas production. The Forest Service is not responsible for production and therefore does not have access to the information.

I am amending the Forest Plan by elimination of this monitoring item listed as item G2 on page 108 of the Forest Plan. Only one person responded to the proposed amendment and they were in favor of dropping the item as proposed.

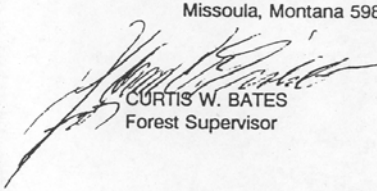
Adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Custer National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement. This amendment is categorically excluded from further documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment (FSM 1950 Interim Directive No. 18 and FSH 1909.15 Interim Directive No. 2).

Additional information can be obtained from:

Custer National Forest
Leroy White
PO Box 2556
Billings, Montana 59103
(406) 657-6361

Implementation of this decision shall not occur for seven days following publication of the legal notice (36 CFR 217.0). This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.8 and 36 CFR 217.9. Two copies of the notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be in writing and submitted within 45 days following the publication of this decision to:

Regional Forester, John W. Mumma
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 7669
Missoula, Montana 59807


CURTIS W. BATES
Forest Supervisor


Date

**Forest Plan Amendment Number 5
Custer National Forest
Billings, Montana**

On page 108 of the Forest Plan in Chapter IV (Implementation) under Minerals, item G2 lists "Verify projected oil and gas production estimates" as a monitoring item.

Please line out the following item as it is being eliminated "Verify projected oil and gas production estimates" as a monitoring item.